

Head Start factsheet for parents/caregivers

About Head Start

Head Start provides support to students in Victorian government schools to undertake a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship, otherwise known as an 'SBAT'.

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SBATs) are an employment-based learning pathway that allow students to combine their senior school years with paid part-time employment and skills training in a preferred industry.

Eligibility

SBATs are available to secondary school students who are:

- enrolled in years 10, 11 or 12
- at least 15 years of age
- an Australian citizen or permanent resident*

*Non-citizens may be eligible under certain circumstances. Speak with the Head Start coordinator for more information.

Benefits of Head Start support

Head Start supports SBATs to:

- increase their future employability and earning potential by gaining the skills, confidence and knowledge they need to succeed in the workplace
- undertake a secondary school certificate such as the VCE, VCE Vocational Major, or the Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC)
- undertake paid employment to build the career they want
- access quality Vocational Education Training (VET) courses in a wide range of industries with an approved training provider.

SBAT readiness

Students may complete the Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) via an online platform that assesses their language, literacy and numeracy skills. The LLN will help Head Start staff to determine student's readiness for vocational learning opportunities and what supports are to be provided to assist the young person to be successful in a School Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship.

Getting started with Head Start

1. Students participate in career planning: the school career adviser helps them to explore their career options and connects them with a Head Start coordinator to provide further information and a referral form for your consent.
2. Parents/Caregivers consent to an interview: Complete and return a paper or digital consent form, so that Head Start can contact you to set up an interview with you, your young person and a Head Start Coordinator.
3. Attend an interview: Head Start will set up an interview between you, your young person and a Head Start coordinator to discuss program details and expectations.
4. Identify an opportunity: the Head Start coordinator works with each student to match their skills and interests to the right opportunity with the right employer.
5. Have a go: Students complete work experience or structured workplace learning to make sure that the workplace is the right fit.
6. Establish the SBAT: The Head Start coordinator works with your young person, the school, employer and you to set up the SBAT.
7. Get started: the Head Start coordinator works with school staff to create a flexible timetable that helps your young person to successfully combine school, work and training. Students receive one-on-one support during their SBAT and when transitioning to a full or part-time apprenticeship or traineeship upon completion of school.

Find out more

Talk to your school's Head Start coordinator or visit www.vic.gov.au/headstart.